

BRIEFING PAPER FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

November 19, 1962

SUBJECT: Non-Invasion Pledge on Cuba

QUESTION: Would a no invasion pledge mean that our opposition to Castro would cease or ease off considerably?

ANSWER : Not at all. Castro was a major hemisphere problem even before the introduction of Russian offensive weapons into the hemisphere. He remains a major hemisphere problem even after all of the offensive weapons leave. At Punta Del Este there was unanimous agreement that Castro-communism in Cuba is "incompatible" with the Inter-American system. This "incompatibility", which was unrelated to the Soviet's introduction of offensive weapons, still exists. This incompatibility need not necessarily be dealt with by invasion. But at the same time a non-invasion pledge would not mean that we would also lift the political and economic measures which are effective against Castro. These will remain and can even be intensified.